

PATENT  
Serial No. 10/506,288  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on April 5, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed April 5, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to correct a certain informality.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2-9 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 2-9 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants

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gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3. Further, new independent claim 10 is added that also includes the features of allowable claim 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-9 and 11-16 are also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 10.

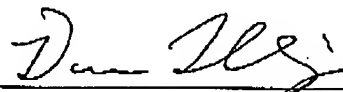
In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

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It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Enclosure: New Abstract

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